

## **MINUTES**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Tawas Bay Holiday Inn  
300 E. Bay Street  
East Tawas**

**June 6-7, 2002**

#### **PRESENT**

Jim Campbell  
Keith J. Charters, Chair  
Nancy Douglas  
Paul Eisele, Vice-Chair  
Bob Garner  
William Parfet (Thursday Only)  
Frank Wheatlake

Chris Dobyys, Legal Counsel  
K. L. Cool, Director  
George Burgoyne, Resource Management Deputy  
James Ekdahl, Upper Peninsula Field Deputy  
Department Staff

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Chairman Charters** called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 3:40 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002. The Committee of the Whole is a working session of the NRC.

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#### **Budget Update**

**Director Cool** reported that the Legislature is not in session, therefore, DNR budget issues have not been resolved. He stated that many budget issues need to be resolved and that staff will be working closely with the Legislature on them.

#### **Early Retirement**

**Director Cool** reported that 232 DNR employees will be retiring under the early retirement program and 16 DNR support staffers from Department of Information Technology are retiring. The replacement ratio has yet to be determined for these individuals.

**Commissioner Eisele** questioned how long it will take to fill vacant positions. **Director Cool** responded that many of the positions to be filled will require specific qualifications and will take a longer period of time to fill. He stated that the DNR is currently understaffed. The DNR opted to put savings following the last early-out retirement toward technology that resulted in efficiency rather than filling all the vacancies. Director Cool does not regret this decision other than that the current early out legislation will even further exacerbate the staffing shortfalls. He stated that the DNR is losing a great deal of historical knowledge and many good employees.

### **Tawas Update**

**Director Cool** reported that the NRC met in Tawas in 1998. He reviewed the discussion items from that meeting. Since 1996, the DNR has invested over \$3 million in the Parks system in Tawas. He noted that **Tawas Mayor Bob Elliott** has been a tremendous partner in these projects.

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The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

**Chairman Charters** called the regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 4:40 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002.

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**Tawas Mayor Bob Elliott**, welcomed the NRC and staff to the area. He expressed appreciation for the working relationship between the City and DNR. Mayor Elliott discussed the dedication of the City dock and requested that priority be given to the bathhouse on the property. He requested that the deer population in the area be addressed and is opposed to the no-spike rule. The Mayor stated that cormorants pose a problem in the bay and would like to address the problem.

**Representative Doug Bovin**, commented relative to proposed deer regulations. He urged the NRC to consider the vastness of the State and the differences in the resources, especially the northern portion of the Upper Peninsula.

Relative to the State paying property taxes, **Representative Bovin** commented that there is no easy answer. However, rural areas in the state need the tax income assessed on State land. He said the State cannot put the tax responsibility on the public and local governments.

**Representative Dale Sheltrown**, thanked the NRC for holding this meeting in northeast Michigan. He thanked the NRC and the Director for delaying the Gladwin Field Trial Area discussion to this meeting to allow folks in the area to comment.

**G. Dale McNamee, representing Doug Bovin**, discussed supplemental feeding and offered the following: 1) a ban on supplemental feeding will not, in and of itself, prevent Chronic Wasting Disease from affecting our wild deer herd. The agricultural community must become concerned with more than the bottom dollar controlling their actions; 2) A total ban on supplemental feeding will seriously jeopardize the ability of the migratory deer herd in this region to sustain populations required to support themselves and the resource use that is essential to the area; 3) supports the formation of a buffer zone which would continue to ban supplemental feeding south of Highway U.S. 2 to the Wisconsin border.

**Mr. McNamee** supported the following cooperative feeding proposal:

Due to the migratory behavior of a large percentage of the Whitetail deer population in the U.P., and the current condition of winter habitat in perennial winter staging areas due to an accelerated and aggressive timber harvest program, especially on land managed under the CFA policy coupled with the lack of habitat restoration, it is deemed necessary to augment the food supply of

these animals until they are able to return to summer ranges which are capable of natural support for the majority of the year. This policy will remain in effect until provisions are made and carried out to allow the natural environment to once again provide the subsistence required for their survival. Cooperative feeding programs will commence when: (a) the winter severity index (WSI) reaches seventy; (b) a source of food such as produced by a logging operation or other human activity has drawn a population of deer into an area and that population is placed in jeopardy when the activity ceases and the food supply eliminated. They support the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Wildlife/Habitat Natural Resources Comprehensive Plan which has or will be presented.

**Mr. McNamee** addressed Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2002 part 3.100a which addresses deer feeding. He believes this is discriminatory to those landowners or lessees involved and a violation of the rights of private property owners in general and requested this portion be deleted.

**Randy Smith, Whitetails Forever Network**, urged Legislators to get more money for DNR. He discussed the following:

*Extended Antlerless Season:* Little justification for an extended antlerless deer season and any special seasons should be done on an as needed basis.

*Button Bucks:* Using a buck tag should be mandatory when harvesting a button buck.

*Harvest Registration:* Mandatory registration should be put in place.

*Mandatory QDM:* Whitetails Forever supports quality deer management concepts but not with mandatory antler point or spread restrictions.

*Antlerless Permits:* Antlerless permits should cost the same as a buck tag.

*Hunter Ethics:* Support all organizations promoting ethics and fair chase.

*DNR Management of the State Deer Herd:* Outdated and questionable sampling and forecasting techniques causes the DNR to incorrectly estimate the size of the state's deer herd and harvest data.

*Credibility:* He believes deer herd size estimates are unrealistic and that those estimates affect hunter confidence.

**Ken Thurlow, Gladwin**, stated that the horseback riders would be willing to discuss a compromise to the Gladwin Field Trial Area issue.

**Ken Becker, Gladwin**, stated that they would be willing to discuss a compromise on times for various usages on the Gladwin Field trial area.

**Dr. Barbara Miller**, stated the groups would be willing to work with the DNR to address their concerns relative to allowing horseback riding in the Gladwin Field Trial Area.

**Al Ettenhoffer, Chairman, UP Whitetails Association**, reviewed deer mortality estimates in the Upper Peninsula over the past five years. Some supplemental feeding occurred. He believes that to ban aid to these animals is to increase these numbers. He is concerned that, without supplemental feeding, deer populations would be greatly reduced. U.P. Whitetails Association, Inc., asked the NRC to consider the following:

- 1) Establish a working committee made up of Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Forest Industry, Sporting Organizations, Farmers, etc. This Committee would address the overall problem and report to the NRC;
- 2) Create a buffer zone along the entire border of Michigan and Wisconsin;
- 3) Require double fencing around all captive cervidae operations;
- 4) Ban any type of feed from any state with CWD;

He does not believe reducing quantities of bait from five gallons to two gallons and eliminating supplemental feeding in the U.P. will assist in disease or population control. U.P. Whitetails Association supports baiting as a management and safety tool and supplemental feeding as a method of sustaining populations that will not exceed the ability of natural habitats for a critical short period in severe winter conditions. He supports increasing natural habitats.

Discussion ensued on deer habitat and feeding issues in the U.P.

**George Cullers, Michigan Trappers Association**, thanked the DNR Furbearing Workgroup for their patience in dealing with trapping groups. As a result of the Michigan Trappers Association April 2002 meeting, the following recommendations were made: support a 48 hour trap check law; change the beaver trapping zones from A, B, C to zones 1, 2, 3 to coincide with other furbearing animals; and allow the trapping of otter in Zone 3. He also requested that snares be made legal for use with other furbearing animals.

**Mike Seelman, Michigan Trappers Association and Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvesters**, appreciates the work of staff and the Furbearing Workgroup and has agreed to work with the Workgroup. They support: 1) 48 hour trap check; 2) going back to the 3 zones for simplicity; and 3) opening an Otter trapping season in southern Michigan.

**Rory Mattson, Superior Deer Management**, presented results of a mail-in survey they conducted in the U.P. Of 5028 respondents, 93 percent supported supplemental feeding in the U.P. and 7 percent did not. Regarding reducing baiting from five gallons to two gallons, 8 percent said they support and 92 percent do not. Relative to baiting, Superior Deer Management believes that baiting remains an excellent management tool with limited quantities.

Relative to feeding, he does not support feeding a herd to create an artificial population in excess of the carrying capacity of the summer habitat. Superior Deer Management supports the current Wildlife Division goal of 22 deer per square mile in the northern half of the U.P. and 32 in the southern half.

**Mr. Mattson** recommended taking one year to bring all interested parties together to discuss issues and concerns related to deer management at the local level throughout the U.P. to formulate a comprehensive plan that all parties can live with, but, more importantly, cooperate in a joint common effort relative to habitat, population numbers, disease control, feeding and baiting.

**Commissioner Douglas** stated that allowing baiting in DMU 452 did not increase the deer harvest. She believes that the DNR, NRC and hunting groups are working together.

**Tim Kobasic** presented a proposal to establish a total management action plan to sustain all natural resources related to the welfare and control of wildlife, prevention of disease, and restoration of quality habitat. This proposal was representative of the opinions of several Upper Peninsula groups. They requested that the NRC consider a one-year moratorium on a total feeding ban so that a broad based comprehensive plan can be assembled and presented for their consideration/action in June of 2003.

**Ron Racine, Calumet-Keweenaw Sportsmen's Club**, believes that without supplemental feeding the whitetail deer population in the Keweenaw Peninsula, which is already significantly smaller than herds in the rest of the state, would be greatly reduced. The Club recognizes and accepts the DNR's strategies and actions to control disease in whitetail populations, but believe that because the Peninsula is essentially an island, the change of our deer contacting communicable diseases such as CWD and bovine tuberculosis is not probable.

**Dave Borgeson, MUCC**, reported that in June 2000, MUCC resolved to work with the MDNR and NRC to eliminate deer baiting and feeding in Michigan's lower peninsula. This action established the policy for the Lower Peninsula only and left the Upper Peninsula to continue under the deer baiting policy spelled out in a resolution adopted in June 1994. That resolution acknowledged that many deemed the excessive use of bait to be unsportsmanlike and proposed that the amount of bait at any one site be limited to two five gallon buckets. It further proposed that a study be made by the DNR to determine the effect of reduced baiting on deer and other wildlife. If the biological data gathered in that study indicated that a ban on deer baiting is necessary for the protection of the deer population, consideration of gradual phasing out of deer baiting would be undertaken. These two resolutions remain current as official policy on deer baiting.

**John Hongisto, U.P. Trappers Association**, supports trapping Option 3 (prohibit the use of traps larger than #3 footholds; no trap check requirement for foothold traps conforming to specific standards; and "daily" trap check for all other restraining traps) with one exception: rather than using the terms "larger than #3, he requested that it read "no larger than a six-inch mouth spread."

**Constance Thurlow, Gladwin**, has ridden horses in the Gladwin Field trial area for many years. She requested that all those in the audience that also ride horses in the Gladwin Field Trial Area stand up. Several stood. On behalf of herself and those who were present, she requested that consideration be given to allow riders to continue to utilize this area.

**Jay Maki, Luce County Board of Commissioners**, believes that proposed feeding and baiting regulations will decimate the deer herd in the Upper Peninsula.

**Commissioner Garner** said that, at a previous meeting where Mr. Maki made comments, he suggested that a resolution needs to be found. **Mr. Maki** said that the groups need to get together for a resolution and that a one-year moratorium on a ban on baiting and feeding would be acceptable.

**Rob Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau**, commented that Farm Bureau believes the proposed feeding and baiting orders show progress. Relative to hunting permit simplifications and the late antlerless season proposals, he stated they are a good aid in harvesting deer in problem areas. The farming industry is eager to meet with groups to discuss and develop priorities relative to what is occurring with chronic wasting disease in other states.

**Darryl Hanson, AuSable Township Parks and Recreation Committee**, asked for support on a grant application made in April for additional riverfront for the park in their township. **Chairman Charters** stated that this issue would be addressed at the December 2002 Natural Resources Trust Fund Board meeting.

**Dan Harrington, U.P. Trappers Association**, supports proposed Option 3 of the Trapping Regulations.

**Chuck Turk, Baldwin**, supports proposed Option 3 of the Trapping Regulations. He believes, what is good for the animal is good for the trapper and that smaller traps are better for the animal.

**Dan Marsh, representing professional deer producers in Michigan**, echoes comments previously made by Rob Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau.

**Bryan Reynolds, U.P. Sportsmens Alliance and U.P. Whitetails**, echoes comments previously made by Tim Kobasic. He does not believe that ceasing baiting and feeding will stop the spread of disease.

**Gerald Plourde, Upper Michigan Wildlife Association**, recommended not changing baiting and feeding regulations.

**Terry Latture, representing deer hunters in northeast Michigan**, believes disease issues in northeast Michigan should be dealt with on a township by township basis. He does not believe that bovine tuberculosis is spread from deer to cattle.

**Bill LeHouillier, Upper Michigan Wildlife Association**, believes the feeding ban would be unenforceable in the Upper Peninsula. He asked that feeding continue to be allowed to sustain a huntable deer population.

**Bob Bennett, Ogemaw County Farm Bureau**, supports a feeding ban and recommends strong enforcement actions against illegal baiters.

**Phil Durst, West Branch**, echoes comments made previously by Bob Bennett. He believes that eradication of bovine tuberculosis is critical and that every step possible be taken to do so.

**Don Canfield, Tahquamenon Sportsmen Club and MUCC District 18**, supports deer feeding to maintain a viable hunting deer population.

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The Natural Resources Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002 and reconvened at 8:35 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2002.

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**Chairman Charters** recognized those present who would be retiring and this would be their last NRC meeting as an employee: Chris Dobyns, John Urbain, and Rodney Stokes. **Chairman Charters** wished them the best in their retirements and/or future ventures.

**Director Cool** noted that Rodney Stokes will leave State government to work for the Detroit Parks and Recreation. He believes Rodney will be good for Detroit and looks forward to a working relationship with him on projects of mutual interest.

**Rodney Stokes** stated that he has mixed emotions leaving State government after 25 years of service. He will miss his friends at the DNR and believes that his position as Chief of DNR's Parks and Recreation Division has been the best job in State government.

#### **Bacterial Kidney Disease**

**George Burgoyne, Resource Management Deputy**, noted that fish in the Marquette Fish Hatchery had been diagnosed with clinical levels of bacterial kidney disease (BKD). These fish are in excess of what was needed for this year's planting. The diseased fish will be destroyed.

#### **Public Service Announcement – Boating Safety**

The DNR, in conjunction with Central Michigan University, generated a public service announcement (PSA) titled "Boating Safety". Commissioners and those present viewed this PSA.

#### **Federal Audit**

**Director Cool** stated that a draft document has been received from the Department of Interior that is satisfying to the DNR. The audit was confined to the past two years and contains few findings. He thanked Matt Hare for his efforts on this audit process. The Department of Interior has established an audit group including the DNR. This group will set standards for how these federal audits are performed in the United States.

#### **Clean Michigan Initiative Projects Update**

**Director Cool** stated the DNR established 345 projects. The DNR has funded 266 projects and has completed 145. Seventy-three projects are under construction. The Department hopes that the Natural Resources Trust Fund Initiative will provide funds to complete all the projects.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

**Director Cool** distributed information on chronic wasting disease. He commented that the only way to deal with this disease is to not allow it into Michigan.

### **Sterling State Park Update**

**Director Cool** reported that the total project is \$14 million dollars. This project had to deal with a unique ecosystem. He discussed attempts to purchase property adjacent to the existing park property.

The Department of Environmental Quality permit has recently been reviewed and the DNR is awaiting the permit from the Corps of Engineers. Construction continues on appropriate portions of the site. The issue of taxes on properties needs to be addressed.

**Commissioner Garner** commented that the issue of land purchases and the associated taxes and funding is cyclic. Over the long term this issue will be resolved.

**Commissioner Eisele** believes that cycles also occur with land available. He believes that the State should be more cautious now than in the past taking into consideration the global economy. Other means of obtaining or managing properties should be explored rather than owning.

**Commissioner Douglas** said the State cannot continue to buy all lands that become available. However, land fragmentation needs to be a focus.

Discussion continued relative to land acquisitions and the associated costs of owning and buying property.

### **SPECIAL DEER PERMIT REGULATIONS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Becky Humphries, Chief, Wildlife Division**, reviewed the Special Deer Permit Regulations For Information Only, Action in July. **Commissioner Campbell** recommended wording to ensure prevention of disease or possible threat of an outbreak in the deer herd.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 9-10, 2002 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Eisele made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.**

**DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS – WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER,  
AMENDMENT NO. 8 OF 2002**

**Becky Humphries** reviewed the proposed regulations.

**Commissioner Douglas** made a motion, supported by **Commissioner Campbell**, for adoption.

**Commissioner Garner** made a motion, supported by **Commissioner Wheatlake** to amend the proposed deer hunting regulations as follows:

- not allow any supplemental feeding in the counties immediately adjacent to Wisconsin;
- postpone the supplemental feeding ban for one year in the rest of the U.P.;
- only allow supplemental feeding where those who complied with the supplemental feeding reporting requirements in that past year;
- add a trigger zone that any occurrence of CWD in Michigan or within 50 miles of the Michigan border in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois, shuts down the entire adjacent peninsula to baiting, feeding, or recreational feeding immediately.

**In the meantime, a list of habitat recovery ideas should be developed.**

**Commissioner Eisele** asked for clarification on the notification process for supplemental feeding.

**Commissioner Douglas** asked if a specific date for stopping supplemental feeding is in the proposal. **Commissioner Garner** stated that the cessation date is May 16, 2003.

**Commissioner Campbell** stated that he disagrees with postponing a feeding ban for one year and does not believe additional time will resolve the issues.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** stated he is not an advocate of supplemental feeding, however, he supports allowing one more year to feed to allow time to work with the groups on issues.

**Chairman Charters** understands the direction the NRC is moving. Habitat and thermal cover issues in the Upper Peninsula need to be addressed. He said that the lesson had been learned that if deer congregate unnaturally, bad things happen.

**Director Cool** appreciates the intent of the amendment and believes there is substance in the approach.

**Commissioner Eisele** supports allowing additional time for the groups to work together on an approach.

**Chairman Charters** wanted assurance that the late firearm season and the muzzleloading season do not overlap. **John Urbain** assured him that there was no overlap.

**Roll call was taken on the amendment. Voting yes: Commissioners Eisele, Garner, Wheatlake and Charters. Voting No: Commissioners Campbell and Douglas. Motion carried 4-2.**

**Commissioner Eisele made a motion for continuation of the baiting in the Upper Peninsula as was last hunting season, through May 16, 2003. Motion failed for lack of support.**

**Vote was taken on the motion to adopt Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 8 of 2002, as amended. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Commissioner Douglas** applauded **Commissioner Garner's** efforts in resolving this issue.

**MANDATORY TRAP CHECK – WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER,  
AMENDMENT NO. 9 OF 2002**

**Commissioner Campbell made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, to support Option 2.**

**Commissioner Eisele** supports Option 3 and questioned why Option 2 was preferential for managing the resource. Discussion ensued.

**Roll call was taken. Voting Yes: Commissioners Douglas, Campbell, Garner, Wheatlake and Charters. Voting No: Commissioner Eisele.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION TRAIL ACQUISITION, GIFT OF LAND AND BOUNDARY DEDICATION:**

**St. Ignace to Trout Lake Trail-Mackinac and Chippewa Counties**

**Marquette to Munising Junction Trail-Alger and Marquette Counties**

**Marquette West Connector-Marquette County**

**Ishpeming to Humboldt Trail-Marquette County**

**Chassel to Houghton Trail-Houghton County**

**Hancock to Ripley Connector-Houghton County**

**Lowen Schuett, Parks and Recreation Division**, reviewed this acquisition. This action modifies that a portion of the land originally to be gifted to Michigan Department of Transportation, will now come to the DNR. No other changes. 55.61 miles will be purchased and 33.04 miles will be gifted. **Chairman Charters** questioned whether the State has clear title to this property. **Mr. Schuett** stated that the same title that the railroad can give is what we are accepting. **Chris Dobyns, Office of Attorney General**, stated that he believes that a warranty deed/fee simple is preferable.

**Commissioner Douglas made a motion, supported by Commissioner Garner, to accept the Parks and Recreation Trail Acquisition, Gift of Land and Boundary Dedication.**

**Commissioner Campbell** questioned who would pay the taxes on this property and will there be restricted use on the trail. **Mr. Schuett** responded that the taxes on the purchased portion would be paid through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and on the gifted portion, through General Fund.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** supports not paying property taxes, having the property revert and then pay swamp tax.

**Roll call was taken: Voting Yes: Commissioners Douglas, Garner, Wheatlake and Campbell. Voting No: Chairman Charters. Commissioner Eisele abstained. Motion carried 4-1-1.**

**NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE ISSUES – MEETING REPORT**

The NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife Issues met at 12:00 noon on Thursday, June 6, 2002 at the Tawas Bay Holiday Inn, East Tawas. **Commissioner Garner (Committee Chair) and Commissioner Campbell** were present for the Committee. Commissioners Wheatlake, Douglas and Charters were also present. **Dr. Steven Schmitt** presented an update on Chronic Wasting Disease. **Commissioner Garner** stressed the importance of having a good plan relative to disease prevention and appreciates the extent to which Dr. Schmitt keeps the Committee and Commission informed. **Tim Reis, Wildlife Division**, reviewed the proposed trapping regulations. Relative to the Gladwin Field Trial Area issue,

**Commissioner Garner** commented that it is important to remember the original intent of the property acquisition.

### **NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON LAND MANAGEMENT**

The NRC Policy Committee on Land Management met at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002 at the Tawas Bay Holiday Inn, East Tawas. **Commissioners Eisele (Committee Chair), Douglas and Wheatlake** were present for the Committee. **Commissioners Charters, Garner and Campbell** were also present. This meeting was a public meeting to hear comments from parties on the Gladwin Field Trial Area issue. A complete record of the meeting is attached.

### **DIRECTOR ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Deer Management Units Open to Antlerless Deer Hunting, Public and Private Land License Availability**

**Becky Humphries** reviewed Director's Action Items. Staff will make a correction to "Deer Management Units Open to Antlerless Deer Hunting, Public and Private Land License Availability" adding DMU 057 (Missaukee County) to those areas open to antlerless hunting. This was listed inaccurately in the proposal presented for Director's Action.

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**Commissioner Wheatlake** emphasized that more general funds are needed to cover property taxes for State lands. He also recommended that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board have a discussion relative to property taxes and the relationship and concern with purchase properties when there is no means to pay taxes on those properties.

**Chairman Charters** supports the proposed acquisitions as good purchases. **Director Cool** stated that the DNR will look at purchases entirely differently in the future, incorporating the issue of how the property taxes will be paid.

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### **Gladwin Field Trial Area – Land Use Order**

**Becky Humphries** reported that the Gladwin Field Trial Area was purchased by the DNR in 1917 for the specific purpose of field trialing. Staff believes this property should remain as originally intended, for field trials to avoid conflicts of usage of the land. However, other activities are justified but these activities should be done to avoid conflicts with the intended purposes – field trialing.

**Ms. Humphries** recommended that the **Director approve this Land Use Order with the amendment changing the effective date to February 1, 2003**, allowing the groups to work on appropriate implementation steps.

**Commissioner Garner** commented that this is a designated field trial area and believes it should remain designated as such.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** believes the designation of single use is appropriate and there are several surrounding areas to be utilized by other uses such as horseback riding and bicycling.

**Director Cool** commented that it is appropriate to have State lands with specific use designations. It is prudent and fiscally responsible to manage DNR lands commensurate with the original intent when purchased, with the restricted funds utilized to purchase the land, and according to the tax distribution on those lands. It is also important to communicate the dedicated responsibilities with the public impacted by these decisions. **George Burgoyne** said the other groups are willing to assist in building trails for their use, but it is necessary to allow Wildlife Division staff to oversee management of this wildlife area, protecting the primary use, but allowing other uses in areas and at levels which do not interfere with the designated primary use.

The NRC supports approval of the Land Use Order as proposed. Discussion ensued regarding amending this order to extend the effective date to February 1, 2003.

#### **DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS**

**Director Cool** intends to sign all Director's Action Items with amendments as discussed previously relative to the "**Gladwin Field Trial Area Land Use Order – Amendment No. 10 of 2002**" and "**Deer Management Units Open to Antlerless Deer Hunting, Public and Private Land License Availability.**"

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Douglas** met with Upper Peninsula deer hunters to discuss proposed deer hunting regulations.

**Commissioner Campbell** received calls from the public relative to deer hunting and trapping regulations.

**Commissioner Eisele** received phone calls relative to deer hunting and trapping regulations.

**Commissioner Garner** received many calls and held meetings with groups relative to deer hunting regulations. He believes that the DNR does not starve the deer – habitat, or the lack of, does that. He promotes stewardship of the resources and stated that the Wildlife Issues Committee will be monitoring hunting activities and will utilize activities in the following year to develop a plan for habitat management.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** received many calls and letters. He announced that an NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration will be held on June 27.

**Chairman Charters** reported that a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board meeting will be held in late June. Chairman Charters along with Becky Humphries and Steve Schmitt met with agricultural groups recently to address diseases in deer. He also spent time with staff addressing the DNR Budget.

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The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.